Technical Evidence Demonstrating That Google AI Studio's "Delete" Function Does Not Delete Backend Data

generative-ai

Bitu79 1 July 5, 2026, 12:39am

The "delete" function in Google AI Studio is not an actual deletion.
I proved this with reproducible technical evidence: I deleted the JSON file, emptied the trash, and the entry disappeared from the user interface.
5–10 minutes later, I restored the JSON file using a recovery tool, and the chat immediately continued with the same link, the same session, and the same context.
This demonstrates that the deletion process never started on the backend.
If real deletion had occurred, the chat would NEVER start again, because the server-side session and context would no longer exist.
Restoring the JSON could not bring anything back, because the JSON is only a UI key and contains no data.
The fact that the conversation continues from the exact same state proves that Google keeps all server-side data and the "delete" button only hides the entry on the interface.
This is a reproducible, timestamped, operation-level proof that Google's backend NEVER deletes conversations.

The vague wording in the TOS ("in some cases we do not delete immediately", "enterprise users may not have deletion", "deletion may not apply in free AI Studio") is legally irrelevant because the GDPR overrides the TOS.
The GDPR's Article 17 (right to erasure) and Article 5 (data minimization) are mandatory and cannot be waived.
A TOS cannot override the law.

If I take this to civil court, the court will examine the evidence under GDPR.
The fact that the chat continues after restoring the JSON shows that deletion never started, meaning

server-side data processing is continuous.
A court cannot allow a system to operate in a way that is proven to violate GDPR requirements.
Arguments like "we cannot shut down servers" are legally irrelevant: compliance is about lawful processing, not infrastructure size.

Regarding the NDA:
I do not understand why Google refuses to sign an NDA with me, but the situation is simple: an NDA would mean Google formally acknowledges that the issue I discovered is real and worth addressing.
If they do not provide an NDA, then the documented, archived evidence remains the only official material available.
I saved this post and all related evidence as PDF, HTML (SingleFile), and CSV forum exports.
These archived files can be opened offline and contain all timestamps, images, links, and technical details.
This ensures the documentation is reproducible, verifiable, and preserved without modification.

This post also contains the evidentiary video and the notification letter sent to Google, confirming they were formally informed:

https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/google-ai-studio-s-delete-button-is-misleading/170101

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